What is claimed is:

1.   In a full-duplex communications system having at least one border node, a method for determining a path to a senior border during the Self-ID process comprising the acts of:

>   marking the border node as the senior border;

>   determining whether said border node has received a Self-ID packet that does not contain a Speed Code on a parent beta port of said border node;

>   marking said port on said border node as the path to the senior border node if said border node has received a Self-ID packet that does not contain a Speed Code on a parent beta port of said border node; and

>   canceling said border node's own status as a senior border node.

2.   A computer-readable medium containing instructions which, when executed by a computer, determine a path to a senior border node during a Self-ID process in a full-duplex communications system having at least one border node, by performing the acts of:

>   marking the border node as the senior border;

>   determining whether said border node has received a Self-ID packet that does not contain a Speed Code on a parent beta port of said border node;

marking said port on said border node as the path to the senior border node if

said border node has received a Self-ID packet that does not contain a

Speed Code on a parent beta port of said border node; and

canceling said border node's own status as a senior border node.

3. A device containing instructions which, when executed by the device, determine

a path to a senior border node during a Self-ID process in a full-duplex communications

system having at least one border node, by performing the acts of:

marking the border node as the senior border;

determining whether said border node has received a Self-ID packet that does

not contain a Speed Code on a parent beta port of said border node;

marking said port on said border node as the path to the senior border node if

said border node has received a Self-ID packet that does not contain a

Speed Code on a parent beta port of said border node; and

canceling said border node's own status as a senior border node.